

From: Charles H. Courtney
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Comments Microsoft Settlement

I am dismayed at the proposed settlement as it, in fact, does little to break Microsoft's de facto monopoly in the personal computer industry. To accomplish this, the Department of Justice should require as part of the settlement that:

1. All of Microsoft's data file specifications be made completely public for all to see without any restrictions or preconditions whatsoever. This will in no way compromise Microsoft's true intellectual property - - the source code of their operating systems and applications programs. However, it will give users of Microsoft products the freedom to use alternative applications programs, networking protocols and operating systems without having their, or their business partners', data held hostage within an unconvertable proprietary Microsoft file format. Doing this will give Microsoft's competition a much needed "foot in the door" that will allow them a fair shot at competing for market share.
2. All of Microsoft's networking protocols must be made completely public for all to see without any restrictions or preconditions whatsoever. This will prevent Microsoft from locking out competing vendors by making the latter's networking protocols unable to interoperate with Microsoft's, which, if not prevented in this manner, in effect limits users to only Microsoft networking products. Again, this does not give away Microsoft's intellectual property, but it does give potential competitors a fair chance at market share.

Sincerely yours,

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